Fall Has Arrived!

Numismagram Newsletter #159 (XI/2025)

No matter where you are (*in the Northern Hemisphere, at least*), fall has undoubtedly arrived, with any remaining leaves adopting their varied autumnal hues. Halloween is now behind us, though some decorative remnants may serve as a reminder of the recently-passed spooky season. What may also still be lingering is a giant bowl of candy that requires some restraint. After all, if one eats too many pieces, this may be the result…

The first highlight of this November upload is a bronze medal from Belgium satirizing the “de Buck Affair,” which was a matter that captured the attention of Belgians in the 1860s. An elderly man with a sizable fortune was befriended by a band of Jesuits who, through their lawyer, were able to convince the man to bequeath his fortune to them. The result was a relative of the deceased attempting to then murder one of the priests. Following the ensuing trial, the relative was acquitted with the Jesuits deemed gold diggers. This medal, graded **NGC MS-61**, pokes some fun at the whole situation, with a Jesuit priest vomiting up coins into the satchel of a convict.

Another reminder that Halloween is now behind us is the fact that our spooky-dominated uploads are now in the past as well. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we took a vacation in mid-September, with some time spent in New York City as well as in upstate New York to visit family. While there, we made a quick day trip to see Niagara Falls…

And, as luck would have it, we have a medal in this upload that features Niagara Falls…

This alluring 1904 medal was issued to celebrate the electrification of the Falls, and features two men important to the field of electricity on the reverse: Benjamin Franklin and Alessandro Volta. These two in particular were chosen given the Italian-American theme of the medal. Meanwhile, the obverse design stands as one of the few numismatic representations of the Falls, giving this medal a number of important collecting aspects.

While visiting the Falls, we even have this pic of us with the mighty cataracts in the background…

Along those lines, here is another medal in our upload, and one that features the artist himself, Robert Elderton, and his muse (and wife)…though this pair is wearing considerably less clothing…

A very rare type from an output of what must have been only a handful of pieces, this engaging issue predates the BAMS series of contemporary art medals by a good five years or more.

As we're now already starting to get earliest overtones of Christmas via commercials, here's a reminder that it's never too early to start thinking about Christmas gifts. Case in point—this is a gift idea that keeps giving. Gifted by my wife from last Christmas is a membership to a mustard of the month, as I love trying new mustards. The one that arrived this past week—*in a delightful, reusable mug no less*—is this Düsseldorf-inspired one. Can't wait to try it!

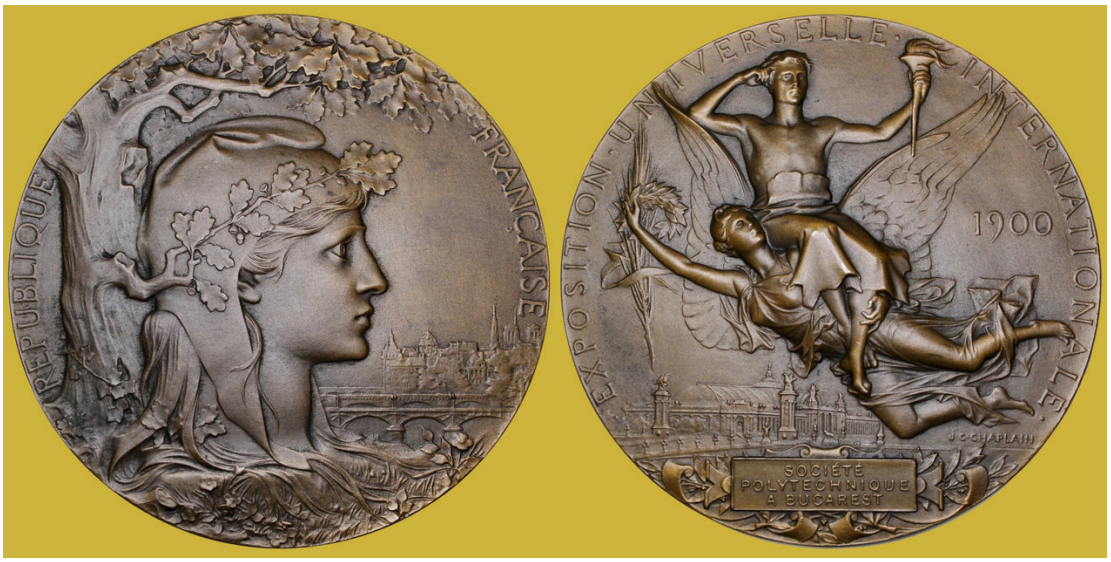
And speaking of Düsseldorf, here is a medal celebrating a bridge near there across the Rhine River…

Housed in a **PCGS SP-64** holder, this large bronze medal celebrates the 1870 opening of the König Wilhelms Railway Bridge, which was named after King Wilhelm of Prussia (*who would become Kaiser Wilhelm of the German Empire shortly thereafter*).

Some of the other highlights in this upload include:

UNITED STATES. New York. Jennings, Wheeler & Co. gilt brass Token. Issued 1860. **PCGS MS-63**.

UNITED STATES. Philadelphia. Cathedral of St. Peter & St. Paul silvered white metal Medal. Issued 1864 (80mm). By Anthony Paquet.



FRANCE & ROMANIA. Paris International Expo bronze Award Medal. Issued 1900 as the official prize [awarded to the Polytechnic Society of Romania (at Bucharest)]. By Jules-Clément Chaplain.

GREAT BRITAIN. Pair (2) of Sir Francis Chichester silver Medals. Issued 1967. Commemorating the first person to sail around the world single-handedly. By Paul Vincze for Spink. **PCGS SP-64** & **SP-63**.

Please note—links in descriptions pointing to **PCGS cert pages** are currently unavailable due to ongoing website issues at PCGS. All of the links are valid, but their database and site have been plagued by disruptions over the past few days.

For all of this upload's new items, please click **here** or on the banner art at the top of this newsletter. We will be back again on November 19th with another great mix of art, historical, and contemporary medals.

And lastly, one final pic from our recent trip: a deer at my parents' farm that had no real interest in moving no matter how close we got…

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